

Remarks

The Office Action dated December 15, 2004 has been received and duly noted. The claims have been amended to overcome the objections raised by the Examiner.

Claim 8 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. The limitations of Claim 8 have been added to Claim 1. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the combined whipstock/neutralizer center of gravity reduces the mass of the counterweight. With respect to Claim 1, U.S. Patent 1,923,448 discloses a socket 10 with an upper section 15 for orienting the whipstock, and accordingly a counterweight would serve no purpose.

With respect to independent Claim 13, the Examiner contends that this claim is anticipated by McCoy, U.S. Patent No. 1,923,448. The McCoy reference does not disclose a neutralizer to releasably secure the whipstock body, with a neutralizer being positioned such that a neutralizer center of gravity is radially opposite the whipstock center of gravity with respect to the central axis of the whipstock body. The McCoy reference indicates that the component 38 is a fitting which discharges into the upper end of the fluid passageway 28. The fitting 38 is provided at the lower end of the stem 34 to fit against the face 22. As shown, for example, in Figures 4 and 5 of McCoy, the whipstock body center of gravity is to the right of the central axis of the whipstock body. Similarly, the fitting 38 as illustrated would have a center of gravity which is to the right of the central axis of the whipstock body. The purpose of the fitting 38 is to provide a fitting, not alter the combined whipstock/neutralizer center of gravity, as recited in Claim 13. The cited reference does not disclose or suggest the structure or the purpose of the neutralizer. Claim 13 has also

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been amended to recite a counterweight, and that the combined whipstock/neutralizer center of gravity reduces the mass of the counterweight.

With respect to independent method Claim 19, the McCoy reference does not disclose a neutralizer center of gravity radially opposite the whipstock center of gravity with respect to the central axis of the whipstock body, with the combined whipstock/neutralizer center of gravity being closer to the central axis of the whipstock body than the whipstock center of gravity to reduce the mass of the counterweight releasably secured to the whipstock body.

In view of the above, early allowance of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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By: 
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